

**METHOD AND SYSTEMS FOR SHARING NETWORK ACCESS  
CAPACITIES ACROSS INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**Abstract**

For optimizing Internet access resources, a method and  
5 systems for sharing network access capacities across Inter-  
net service providers is disclosed. According to the method  
of the invention, a client service provider (CSP) may hire  
accesses to points of presence belonging to a master service  
provider (MSP) while maintaining a constant security level  
10 and providing connection accounting means. When a CSP's  
subscriber sends an access request to a MSP, the MSP  
analyzes the subscriber's realm and checks the capacities  
allocated to the subscriber's CSP. If connection is allowed,  
the MSP sends an authentication request to the CSP. If the  
15 subscriber is authenticated, the MSP launches an accounting  
process based on the subscriber's realm while the CSP may  
launch an accounting process associated with the subscriber  
identifier. Thus, the MSP does not need to maintain a  
database comprising information relative to the CSP's  
20 subscribers.